UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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DP/PROJECTS/7175

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF REGIONAL AFRICA

IPF: (1986-1991) $226 070 000
(RAF/86/052) - Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA)
(Supplementary Assistance)

Date of approval:	30 September 1991
Expected duration:	12 months
Proposed executing agency:	ECA
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 527 600
Previous UNDP budget:	$3 011 700
Total UNDP budget:	$3 539 300

Source of funds: IPF

Project background

From 1978 to 1987, UNDP financed three ECA executed regional projects in the areas of training, national accounts and household surveys. The three projects, all aimed at strengthening statistical systems in Africa, are: Operational support to the improvement and expansion of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) (RAF/78/017 and RAF/82/051); Assistance to Least Developed Countries (LDC's) and Newly Independent countries (NIC's) in national accounts (RAF/78/061); and African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) Regional Component (RAF/78/016). The terminal reports of these projects indicated significant, albeit varying degrees of success in strengthening capabilities in each of the three areas. It became clear, however, that much remained to be done. To achieve greater impact and coordination, the three projects were merged under one umbrella project "Statistical Development Programme for Africa" (SDPA)-RAF/86/052, commencing with the Fourth Programming Cycle.

An in-depth technical evaluation of the project which took place from 21 May - 20 June 1990 and a Tripartite Review meeting held from 14-15 June 1990, both strongly recommended that the project should be adequately funded and continue through the UNDP Fifth Programming Cycle to contribute to the successful implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s which was adapted by the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development at its sixteenth meeting in May 1990. At its June 1990 meeting, the Action Committee, in approving the extension of the project "Data Collection related to Development Programmes and Aid Flows in Africa" (RAF/86/058), decided that ECA should be responsible for one of its outputs, namely: Draft proposal for a UNDP-financed project to enhance statistical capacity in Africa. For the implementation of this decision, UNDP agreed to transfer this output to the project (RAF/86/052): Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA).

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As a result of this transfer, a fourth immediate objective has been assigned to this project, namely to recommend measures to strengthen national statistical capacity and the preparation of an overall strategy for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s.

The Strategy paper prepared in pursuance of achieving the fourth objective made a detailed review of a number of technical assistance programmes in the last three decades. It made recommendations on what could be done at National, Subregional regional and global levels for better results in the 1990s and possibly beyond given the various reform initiatives at the different levels to address the economic crisis facing the region. The strategy was extensively discussed at an intergovernmental/agency/donor Working Group meeting held in Nairobi from 16-20 July 1991. The meeting which was convened by ECA and sponsored by UNDP adopted the strategy after due modifications. To give practical expression to the implementation modalities of the strategy, it is necessary to prepare a fundable programme with well connected components and possibly involving a number of actors. This revision is to serve primarily as a bridging project pending the finalization of a substantive programme.

Immediate objectives of the project identical to those of the three antecedent projects remain to: (a) strengthen training facilities in the field of statistics and produce competent statistical personnel; (b) ensure the existence of more relevant, timely and reliable systems of basic economic statistics for planning, policy making and other purposes and the capability of statistical offices to maintain them; and (c) strengthen the capability of African countries to generate a continuing flow of integrated socio-economic data from household surveys for their development plans, policies and programme.

Description of project

Project activities will include: (a) preparing a well-costed and articulated programme with funding and implementing arrangements; (b) undertaking standardized guidelines for country needs assessments and preparing country capacity profiles; (c) establishing a monitoring data base on African Statistical Capacity; and (d) continuing to provide much needed advisory services to countries.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a statistical training adviser (twelve work-months) for French/Portuguese speaking countries, a statistical training adviser/household survey specialist (twelve work-months) for English speaking countries, a senior statistician (nine work-months); a survey specialist/chief technical adviser (twelve work-months) for French speaking countries; administrative support; consultants (six work-months) in statistical development; fellowships for staff training; some expendable and nonexpendable equipment.

Financial data

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Personnel	343 500
Subcontract	142 500
Training	21 000
Equipment	3 500
Miscellaneous	17 100
Total	527 600